ANNUAL REPORT 1990-1991

Ministry of Parks

Province of British Columbia

BC Parks

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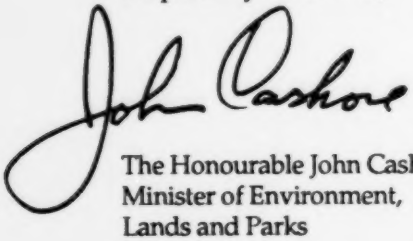
To His Honour
The Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of British Columbia

May It Please Your Honour:

Herewith, I respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Ministry of Parks for the period April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991, during which time the Hon. Ivan Messmer and Hon. John Savage served as subsequent ministers.

Respectfully submitted,



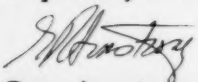
The Honourable John Cashore
Minister of Environment,
Lands and Parks

Honourable John Cashore
Minister of Environment,
Lands and Parks

Sir:

I have the honour to submit the annual report of the British Columbia Ministry of Parks for the period from April 1, 1990 to March 31, 1991.

Respectfully submitted,



Gerry Armstrong
Deputy Minister

ANNUAL REPORT 1990-1991

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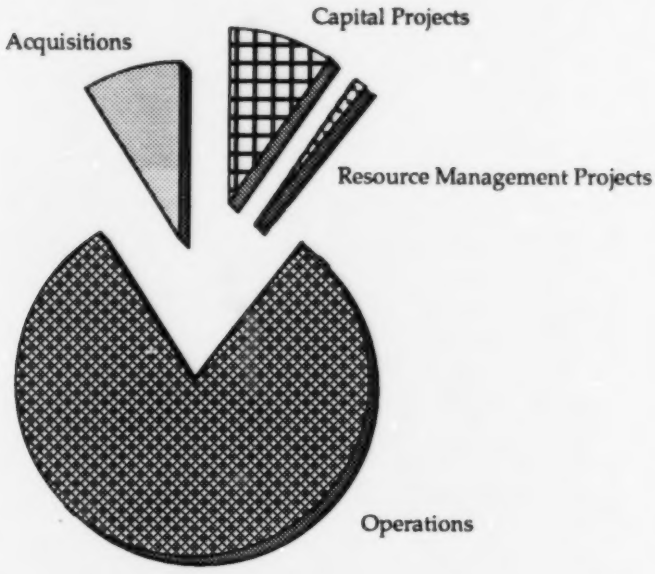
Spending Summary



Repairs and Capital Projects	$3,658,322
Resource Management Projects	423,455
Operations	31,575,338
Parks Vote Total	**$35,657,115**
Sustainable Environment Fund (Acquisitions and Carmanah Development)	3,437,927
TOTAL	**$39,095,042**

Ministry Overview

During 1990/91, the government continued to emphasize the protection and management of British Columbia's natural heritage.

The Ministry of Parks launched Parks Plan 90, a review of the entire provincial park system, on Canada's first Parks Day. Beginning June 9, the Ministry of Parks invited public debate through the release of two discussion papers on its conservation goals: protection of biodiversity within the province by designating large parks to protect representative landscapes; and, protection of special features such as, the most spectacular waterfalls, mountain peaks and others. These discussion papers, *Landscapes for BC Parks* and *Special Features for BC Parks* were followed by a third paper: *Recreation Goals for BC Parks.*

A *Draft Working Map* followed in early 1991 with an analysis of the existing provincial park system and identified study areas which may fill the gaps. An extensive set of public meetings occurred throughout the province to review and discuss the map and analysis.

In the area of park operations, 1990/91 was the third year of a three-year program to have all auto-accessible day use areas and campgrounds maintained by private-sector contractors. The program has built on the previous years' successes. In this program, the Ministry of Parks retains management control of the provincial park system. It sets standards of performance and campground fees, and retains ownership of both land and facilities, while the contractors provide services. Contractors collect fees, supplementing their contract price with campground revenues.

In 1990/91, 121 operations permits, covering 191 parks, were issued under this program.

Funding for park operations increased to $31.575 million. These funds were used to manage new parks and to extend the operating season in many popular parks throughout the province.

BC Parks is committed to:

- *conserving parks for future generations*
- *providing high-quality, safe outdoor recreation.*

- *196 parks have operation permits for campgrounds and day use areas.*
- *$3,658,322 to improve park facilities.*

Contract Summary - 1990/91
(Interim Report Subject To Audit)

Program	Number of Contracts	Value of Contracts ($)
Visitor Services		
Visitor Programs	74	1,035,305
Operations/Facility Development	1,561	9,482,935
Planning and Conservation Services		
System Planning/Policy	7	41,426
Resource Services	43	246,451
Park Management Services	62	256,744
Communications	36	186,843
Totals	**1,783**	**11,249,704**

Mandate

BC Parks is responsible for the designation, management and conservation of a land-and water-based system of parks, recreation areas and ecological reserves. These contain many of the best representative elements of British Columbia's natural and cultural heritage.

The provincial system of parks, established under the authority of the *Park Act*, is "dedicated to the preservation of their natural environments for the inspiration, use and enjoyment of the public." Inherent in this mandate is the requirement to maintain a balance between BC Parks' goals for conservation and recreation.

The provincial system of ecological reserves, established under the authority of the *Ecological Reserve Act*, is dedicated to the maintenance of British Columbia's ecological diversity through the preservation of representative, unique, rare and endangered ecological values. Ecological reserves permanently serve as laboratories for scientific research, genetic banks, benchmark areas and outdoor classrooms to enable the learning of natural processes.

The ministry also represents the outdoor recreation interests of British Columbians in the allocation and use of land resources throughout the province.

BC Parks services are delivered throughout the province through 13 District Parks offices. The ministry manages activities in three program areas: Provincial Parks, Ecological Reserves and Outdoor Recreation.

Legislation Administered:

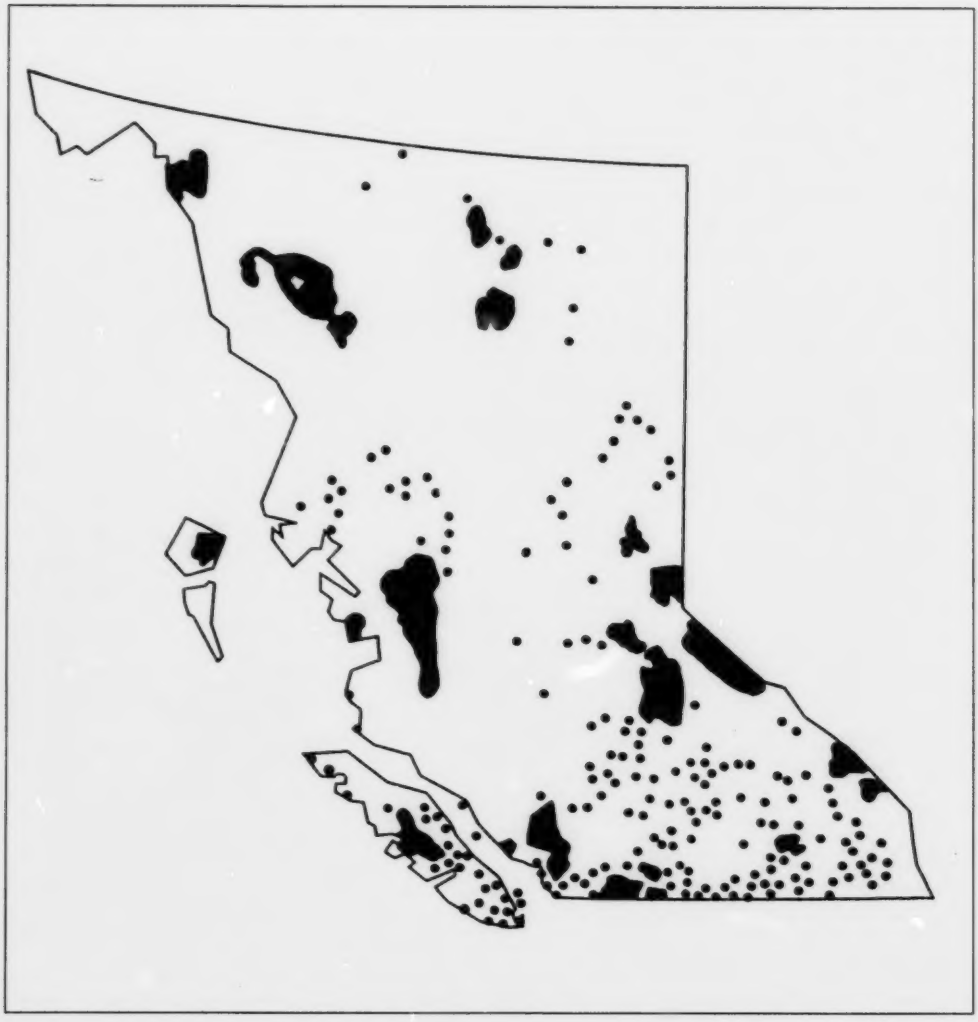
Park Act

Ecological Reserve Act

Park (Regional) Act

Commercial River Rafting Safety Act

- *Our mission is to protect and manage outstanding examples of British Columbia's natural and cultural environment for public benefit and use.*



British Columbia

Provincial Park System

Provincial Parks

Parks Plan 90

This year marked the beginning of a major public process to define the future of the park system.

Parks Plan 90 was announced on Canada's first Parks Day, June 9, 1990. Public discussion papers were released outlining the goals and objectives for the provincial park system. Later, the ministry released a comprehensive inventory and analysis of the existing system and potential additions. It put forward 117 large, small and interagency study areas throughout the province for public comment.

Parks Plan 90 was expanded in January 1991 when the Ministry of Forests joined the initiative with the release of its analysis of potential wilderness areas. The two ministries invited the public to participate in Parks and Wilderness for the 90s by reviewing and commenting on preliminary findings.

In February, more than 11,000 people attended public meetings and open houses in 104 communities throughout the province. The Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources made presentations and answered questions at these sessions.

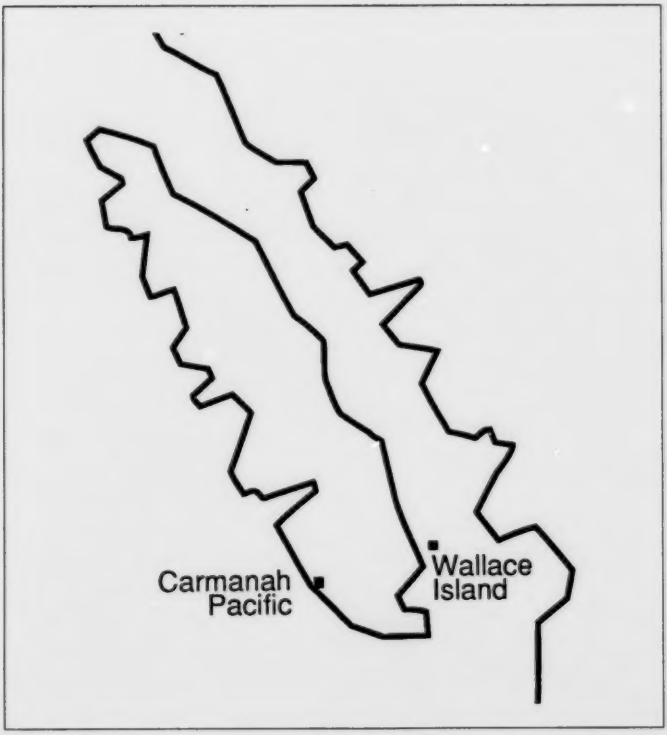
This process was intended to ensure that the people of B.C. have an open opportunity to comment on Parks and Wilderness for the 90s. BC Parks asked the general public and interest groups to review the goals of its plan for a parks system throughout the province. It also asked for comments on its system planning process, and for comments on proposed study areas. It also presented an opportunity to propose additional areas of interest, and to recommend areas which

- ***Parks Plan 90 is the first public review of a new provincial park system plan.***
- ***Ministry of Forests joins Ministry of Parks in examination of protected areas.***
- ***More than 11,000 people attend meetings.***

❑ *New parks created:*

■ *Carmanah Pacific*

■ *Wallace Island.*



Provincial Parks

created in 1990/91

could be deleted from the current rosters of provincial parks and wilderness areas.

The Ministry of Parks and the Ministry of Forests pledged to release a summary of public comments in the new fiscal year. The two ministries said they would then present to Cabinet an analysis of this element of a new land use strategy for the province.

Park system

On March 31, 1991, the provincial park system contained 388 parks and recreation areas covering 5,382,133 hectares. 70 per cent of the provincial park system is now protected through legislation. BC Parks managed facilities with a value of approximately $300 million. The number of visitors in 1990 increased four per cent over 1989 to 21.4 million recorded visits.

Park lands

Approximately $2,947,000 was spent on the acquisition of 4,300 hectares of new park land in 1990/91.

Highlights are:

1. six parcels of privately owned lands within existing parks were purchased and added to *Okanagan Mountain* (5) and *Ten Mile Lake* (1) parks;
2. to protect park resources more completely, eight mineral claims were purchased in *Kokanee Glacier* (3) and *Strathcona* (5) parks;
3. two new Class A provincial parks were created as:

- *Carmanah Pacific Park*, 3,592 hectares. It is located on the West Coast of Vancouver Island, and protects some of the tallest Sitka spruce trees in the world;
- *Wallace Island Park*, 72 hectares. This Gulf Island marine park is equidistant between Vancouver, Victoria and Nanaimo, and is popular with boaters from both the Mainland and Vancouver Island;

4. *Desolation Sound Recreation Area* was upgraded to a Class A provincial park.

- *Under the* Park Act, *the Legislature must give its consent before property may be removed from a park listed in its schedules. The Legislature must also give its consent before any of these parks may be cancelled.*
- *By adding 23 more parks to Schedules of the* Park Act, *the government has extended the greatest possible protection to 72 per cent of park land.*
- *Additional parks will be added to schedules of the* Park Act *following public review of their master plans. A master plan guides management and development of a park.*

Park system as of March 31, 1991

Designation	*Number*	*Area (ha)*
Class A park	323	4,273,681
Class B park	2	3,778
Class C park	27	811
Recreation Area	35	972,340
Wilderness Conservancy	1	131,523
Total park land	388	**5,382,133**

Parks added to the *Park Act* Schedules

Park	*Area (ha)*
Brandywine Falls	143
Dahl Lake	749
Eskers	1,603
Garibaldi	194,654
Gwillim Lake	9,199
Hamber	24,518
Kalamalka Lake	978
Kinaskan Lake	1,800
Kokanee Glacier	25,832
Monkman	32,000
Mount Assiniboine	39,052
Muncho Lake	88,416
Princess Louisa Marine	65
Ruckle	486
Schoen Lake	8,170
Spatsizi Plateau	656,785
Stone Mountain	25,691
Strathcona	219,304
Top of the World	8,791
Tribune Bay	95
Tudyah Lake	56
Tweedsmuir	960,918
Valhalla	49,800
Total	**2,349,105**

Additions to the park system in 1990/91

New Parks	Area (ha)
Carmanah Pacific Park	3,592
Wallace Island Park	72
Total	**3,664**

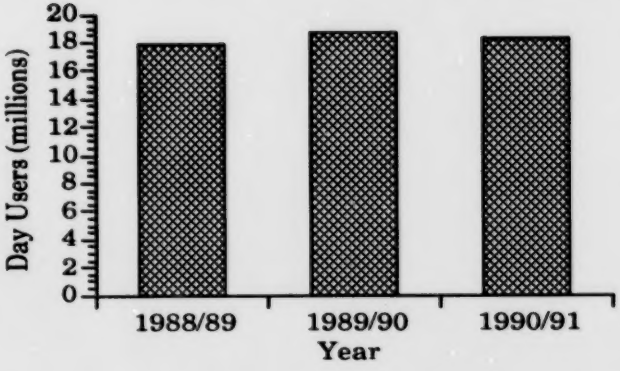
Land added to parks	Area (ha)
Beaumont Marine	24
Cape Scott	16
Cypress	16
Goldstream	2
Golden Ears	2
Maquinna	5
Monashee	1
Mount Edziza	4
Nancy Greene	5
Princess Louisa	1
Princess Margaret	340
Red Bluff	65
Strathcona	159
Tatlatui	3
Total	**643**
TOTAL AREA ADDED TO SYSTEM	**4,307**

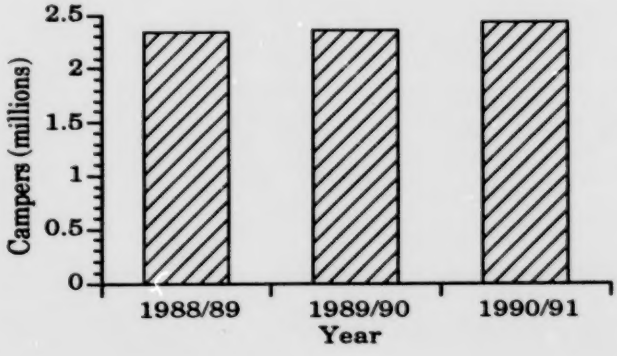
Recreation Area upgraded to Class A park

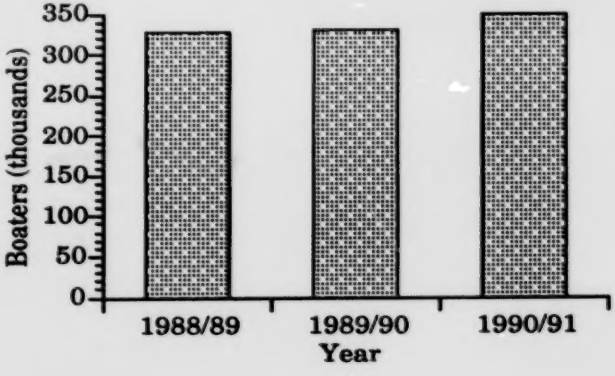
Desolation Sound	2,550 ha

❑ *Acting on the recommendations of the Strathcona Advisory Committee, a public process which resulted in the "Larkin Report", government confirms the boundaries of Strathcona Park, and legislates these as a Class A provincial park.*

Visitor Trends







Park use

Visits to B.C.'s provincial parks increased in 1990 by four per cent over 1989. More than 21.4 million people visited provincial parks, the highest level ever recorded. This increase was largely due to increases in visits to day-use areas. The number of people camping at BC Parks' 11,456 campsites rose to 2,356,000, a one per cent increase over the previous year.

Visitor satisfaction was monitored and tabulated in 77 areas of the provincial park system. Surveys were conducted in 40 campgrounds, 24 day-use areas, seven backcountry areas and six marine parks.

Seven out of 10 campground visitors who were asked to fill out a questionnaire did so. About half of these proved to be repeat visitors to the parks in which they were interviewed. About one third of these repeat visitors thought the quality of our service and facilities had improved since their previous visit. Almost two thirds (64 per cent) thought the quality was the same. Survey results in beach/picnic areas, backcountry areas and marine parks were very similar.

Visitor programs

Visitor programs were offered in 44 of B.C.'s provincial parks. Interpretive programs assisted visitors in developing a keener sensitivity, awareness, understanding of, and commitment to, park resources. These included public presentations such as evening talks, special events and guided walks, as well as exhibits in visitor centres and informal contacts in campgrounds.

Through interpretive programs, BC Parks contacted 674,340 visitors. Visitor centres continued to be popular and naturalist programs helped visitors enjoy their stay.

Program themes, in order of emphasis, were: natural history, park awareness, safety and recreation skills, cultural history, and park-related entertainment. In particular, specific programs focused on

- *21.4 million visitors*
- *2.4 million campers in 11,400 sites*
- *674,340 visitors participated in interpretive programs.*

conservation of park resources, including firewood.

The ministry improved the quality of visitors' experiences by providing additional on-site interpretive signs in parks throughout the province. Two new displays at the Shuswap Lake Visitor Centre were introduced.

Jerry's Rangers

Children visiting parks are invited to learn more about their natural heritage as they become one of Jerry's Rangers. By attending a program in a park, a child may earn a Jerry's Ranger certificate and a sticker declaring the child is a "Nature Nut," "History Hound," "Earth Explorer," "Safety Sense," "Garbage Gobbler," "People Pleaser," "Proud Player" or "Dogged Detective."

Approximately 19,000 children became Jerry's Rangers in 1990.

Parks Day

The first nation-wide Parks Day was celebrated on June 9, 1990 with a variety of special events in selected parks. Activities included displays by local artists in *Cultus Lake Provincial Park*, old-fashioned games and a barbecue in *Sun-Oka Provincial Park*, a discussion on grassland conservation in *Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park* and a walk through the old growth forest in *Lakelse Lake Provincial Park*.

Education programs

Nearly 31,000 children attended school programs in the spring and fall.

Special projects

With the anticipated return of 12 million sockeye salmon to the Adams River, BC Parks and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans held a "Salute to the Salmon" in *Roderick Haig-Brown Provincial Park*. Displays and river walks helped 250,000 visitors understand the life-cycle of these ocean fish which spawn in fresh water.

The ministry participated in the B.C. government's travelling environmental mall display by creating an

interactive computer game. A touch-screen computer was used to allow visitors to design their own park. When a player placed an element such as a campground, trail or wildlife-viewing platform on a feature like a steep mountain slope, valley meadow or marsh, a light-hearted narration would tell the player about the merits of the choice. For example, if a trail was placed in an old growth forest, the narration would say one can tell the age of trees by counting their rings ... "I didn't know trees got married," said she. "They don't," said he. "They're just growing steady."

Publications

More than 1.8 million copies of ministry publications were printed and distributed to the public provincially, nationally and internationally. These were produced at an average cost of 17¢ per copy. In British Columbia, much of the distribution was handled by the nearly 150 Travel InfoCentres located throughout the province.

BC Parks has three basic types of publications:

- regional publications (maps) describing park locations, facilities and services on Vancouver Island, the Lower Mainland, Northern British Columbia, the Kootenays and the Cariboo-Shuswap-Okanagan areas;
- brochures describing individual parks and their features, facilities and services; and
- brochures about the natural environment.

A new series of Circle Tour cards was produced in 1990/91. The cards show provincial parks and tourist attractions along 10 routes.

Circle Tours created were:

- Train Tracks and Ferries;
- the Peace River Country;
- North Cascades-Coquihalla;
- Valleys and Sagebrush;
- Mountains, Mines and Magnificence;
- Mountains to Farmlands;
- Mermaids and Miracles;
- Grasslands and Orchards;

- Coquihalla-Fraser Canyon;
- Island Stepping Stones.

Advertising and private sector cooperation

In cooperation with *Pacific Yachting Magazine*, BC Parks added compatible advertising, consisting primarily of public service advertisements to the 1991 issue of *Coastal Marine Parks of British Columbia*.

To promote a broad public understanding of the resources protected in provincial parks, BC Parks produced a television commercial. It featured sweeping vistas of mountain peaks, waterfalls and lakes within six wilderness parks, as well as using a song entitled "Say B.C.".

Volunteers

About 2,200 people volunteered in provincial parks in 1990/91. Many of these volunteers were guest speakers at in-park programs.

In the Park Host Program, volunteers camp on-site for the summer and provide information about the park and surrounding area. This program proved popular and beneficial to visitors unfamiliar with the area. More than 300 park hosts assisted visitors in parks during 1990.

Disabled access programs

BC Parks is committed to improving access for visitors with disabilities.

As a measure of this commitment, BC Parks introduced a disabled access pass in 1990 which allows holders free camping in provincial parks and recreation areas. As a further convenience, the disabled access pass allows members of the card holder's party to also camp without charge.

The pass program was developed after consultation with organizations representing the disabled and other government agencies.

During the 1990 summer camping season, more than 1,000 individuals received an access pass.

In 1990/91, 49 parks

were accessible to wheelchair visitors. Facilities at *Saltery Bay Provincial Park* were built in cooperation with the Powell River Model Community for the Disabled Society. A special ramp allows scuba divers with disabilities to enjoy this popular diving area on the Sunshine Coast.

Park security

Park rangers recorded 56,035 patrol hours during 1990 and park rangers and facility operator security staff attended 36,224 occurrences. More than 9,100 of the occurrences were disturbances which resulted in 3,011 evictions. A 5.6 per cent increase in theft from visitors was reported, with a 1.7 per cent decrease in theft and damage incidents to park property.

Most occurrences were satisfactorily resolved by persuasion and warnings. However, 348 occurrences were serious enough to require prosecution. This represents an increase of 24 per cent over the previous year.

The greatest concentration of non-compliance situations continues to occur in the high use campgrounds and day-use areas. BC Parks seeks to ensure that visitors to these areas feel secure.

Occupational injury and illness prevention program

In 1990/91, BC Parks sought to improve its employee accident statistics. A new policy and manual were introduced and all key personnel received safety training.

The results were most rewarding, with a notable 54 per cent decrease (from 48 to 22) in employee accidents and a 62 per cent decrease in time-loss accidents (from 24 to 9).

Park Management — Yearly Comparison

	88/89	89/90	90/91
VISITS:[1]			
Campground Use	2,202,781	2,336,790	2,356,487
Day Use	17,077,011	17,888,060	18,692,059
Boating Use	314,170	325,879	328,702
TOTAL VISITS	**19,642,016**	**20,550,729**	**21,377,248**
REVENUE ($000):			
Campground	3,735	1,732	236[2]
Park Use Permits & Concessions	863	501	393
TOTALS	**4,598**	**2,233**	**629**
EXPENDITURES ($000):			
CROWN LAND FUND/SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT FUND:			
Land Acquisition	1,280	2,051	3,438[3]
PARKS VOTE:			
Resource Management Projects	310	403	424
Capital Projects	4,371	4,689	3,658
Operations	27,430	29,193	31,575
TOTALS	**33,391**	**36,336**	**39,095**
COSTS ($000)			
Operations Costs	22,832	26,960	30,958
Total Costs	28,793	34,103	38,478
Adjusted Operations Costs[4]	25,161	28,443	30,958
Adjusted Total Costs[5]	31,730	35,979	38,478
STAFFING (PERSON YEARS):			
Yearly	244	264	264
Seasonal	175	137	137
TOTALS	**419**	**401**	**401**
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INDICATORS:			
Park hectares (thousand)	5,364.7	5,367.8	5,379.0
BC population (thousand)[6]	2,984.0	3,047.2	3,105.7
Park area per resident (hectares)	1.80	1.76	1.73
Park investment per resident (adjusted $)	10.63	11.81	12.39
Important landscapes represented	41/57	41/59	17/59[7]
VISITOR SERVICES INDICATORS:			
Visitors per staff person year	46,764	51,249	53,310
Operation cost per visitor (adjusted $)	1.28	1.38	1.45
Visitors per campsite[8]	61	64	64

[1] Visitation is for calendar year which ends in the fiscal year (e.g. 1990 for 1990/91 fiscal year)
[2] Reflects increased operations of campgrounds by contractors, who keep campground revenues to offset costs.
[3] Sustainable Environment Fund acquisition $2,946,541; Carmanah $491,386.
[4] Costs are expenditures minus revenue (net cost to government).
[5] Costs adjusted for inflation to 90/91 fiscal B.C. Consumer Price Index.
[6] Central Statistics Bureau, Projection as of June 1 of the year stated.
[7] 17 of the 59 landscapes identified in B.C. are adequately represented. Change from 89/90 to 90/91 reflects new evaluation criteria.
[8] Camper party nights divided by campsites.

Managing park resources

As part of its continuing commitment to protect and manage the natural and cultural resources entrusted to its care, the ministry initiated comprehensive conservation awareness and resource management training for all field staff. When this program is complete, 200 staff members will have received basic training in the management of a wide range of natural and cultural resources.

Master plans

Master plans provide long-term direction for dealing with issues which involve the protection of resources and development of parks for public recreation. BC Parks is committed to involving the public in all phases of developing master plans.

In a master plan, issues such as boundary adjustments, recreational use zoning, forest and wildlife management, protection of rare or endangered species of plants and animals, and major inventory studies are discussed, and direction given.

The zoning policy for master plans was reviewed and rewritten. The policy now gives recognition to wilderness zoning in provincial parks, and outlines the types of activities and facilities suitable for such zones.

This year, five major master plans were approved:

- *Kokanee Glacier Provincial Park* and *Kokanee Glacier Recreation Area*, in the West Kootenays;
- *Liard River Hotsprings Provincial Park*, on the Alaska Highway;
- *Garibaldi Provincial Park*, north of Vancouver;
- *Purcell Wilderness Conservancy*, east of Kootenay Lake;
- *Okanagan Mountain Provincial Park*, on the east side of Okanagan Lake.

A draft master plan for *Strathcona Provincial Park* was developed and

- ❑ *Staff training promotes conservation awareness.*
- ❑ *Master plans are approved for five major parks.*

Operational permits program

Administering Office	*Number of permits issued*	*Number of parks under permit*
South Coast Region		
Strathcona District	8	16
Malahat District	8	23
Fraser Valley District	8	11
Garibaldi/Sunshine District	9	9
Vancouver District	2	2
Totals	**35**	**61**
Southern Interior Region		
Thompson River District	13	24
Okanagan District	12	20
West Kootenay District	15	23
East Kootenay District	10	16
Totals	**50**	**83**
Northern B.C. Region		
Skeena District	11	14
Cariboo District	9	14
Prince George District	7	9
Peace-Liard District	9	16
Totals	**36**	**53**
Provincial Totals	**121**	**197**

circulated for public review and comment.

As a result of recommendations presented by the Strathcona Park Steering Committee, a group of senior ministry staff with three public advisers, the boundaries of *Strathcona Provincial Park* were agreed upon, and legislation was passed to establish these boundaries.

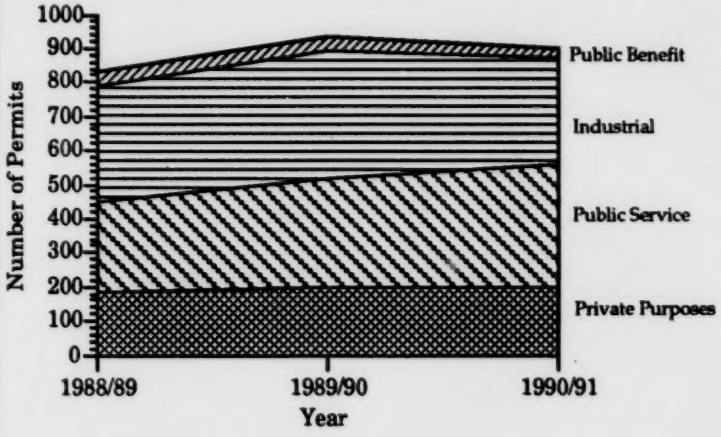
Conservation highlights

The following is a summary of 1990/91 conservation accomplishments.

1. In *Garibaldi Provincial Park*, a major program to map and assess mountain goat habitat was completed. This was done with a view toward the eventual reintroduction of goats to this park.
2. Major revegetation projects were continued to rehabilitate badly worn trails in *Garibaldi Provincial Park* and remote campsites in *Manning Provincial Park*.
3. Erosion control projects were undertaken to preserve magnificent old growth forest stands in *Nimpkish River Ecological Reserve* and *MacMillan Provincial Park*. Both forests are threatened by repeated flooding.
4. A number of ecological reserves were fenced to prohibit grazing by cattle.
5. A vegetation management plan for *Kalamalka Lake Provincial Park* (North Okanagan) and a fire management plan for *Akamina-Kishinena Recreation Area* (southeast corner of the province) were prepared.
6. A detailed study of fossils and cultural artifacts found in *Top of the World Provincial Park* was completed.
7. A study was conducted of salmon and grizzly bears at the Atnarko River in *Tweedsmuir Provincial Park*.

- *Park and Resource Use Permits are a major tool for managing park resources and commercial activities within parks.*
- *Overall, revenues returned to the province from park and resource use permits amount to $371,754 in 1990/91, compared to $500,722 in 1989/90. An exceptional ski season resulted in unusually high revenues in the previous fiscal year.*

Park and Resource Use Permits



Type	88/89	89/90	90/91
Private purposes (cabins, access roads, etc.)	187	199	196
Public service (guiding, resorts, etc.)	261	316	361
Industrial/commercial use (pipelines, transmission lines, etc.)[1]	337	374	312
Public Benefit (scientific research, movies, etc.)	48	43	29
Totals	**833**	**932**	**898**

[1]13 permits for public telephones in parks were rolled into one permit this fiscal year.

8. An artificial mineral lick pilot study was established in *Muncho Lake Provincial Park*. This project was intended to lure mountain sheep away from the Alaska Highway, where they congregate to lick salt from the road edge. There was a substantial reduction in the number of sheep killed by passing cars and trucks.
9. A hydrological study of *Liard River Hotsprings Provincial Park* was completed to determine the impact on water quality of human use of the pools, and to determine the movement of water through the park.

Developing and upgrading parks

A total of $3,658,322 was spent on repairs and reconstruction of park facilities throughout the province.

The Ministry of Environment's Environment Youth Corps (for youths aged 17 to 24 years), continued to work with BC Parks in upgrading trails and improving recreational facilities within four provincial parks this year.

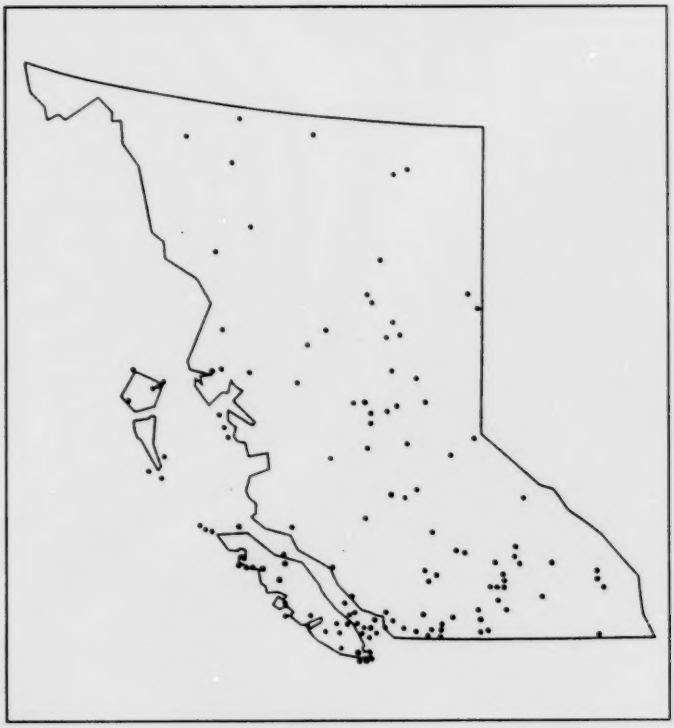
BC Parks spent $491,386 of funds provided by the Sustainable Development Committee to create a parking lot, trails, and to hire security staff in *Carmanah Pacific Provincial Park*.

The ministry spent $117,436 in 1990/91 for new park development in the *Skagit Valley Recreation Area*. These funds were provided by the Skagit Valley Commission.

Wildlife Watch

BC Parks continued to participate in the Wildlife Watch Program coordinated by the Ministry of Environment. The program involves inventory, planning and facility construction to encourage public viewing of wildlife. In 1990/91, plans or facilities were funded in seven parks across the province.

- *New ecological reserves are created at:*
  - *Big Creek (257 ha);*
  - *Ellis Is. (1 ha);*
  - *Galiano Island (30 ha);*
  - *Gamble Creek (1,212 ha);*
  - *Klaskish River (132 ha);*
  - *Mahoney Lake (29 ha);*
  - *Stoyoma Creek (76 ha);*
  - *Trial Island (23 ha).*
- *Griffin Island (35 ha) is added to the Oak Bay Islands Ecological Reserve.*



British Columbia Ecological Reserves

Ecological reserves management yearly comparison

	88/89	89/90	90/91
Number of reserves	117	123	131
Area of reserves (000 ha)	155.2	157.1	158.9
Number of wardens	78	80	85
Number of research and educational permits	45	50	35

Ecological Reserves

Ecological reserves are set aside to preserve samples of representative, rare or endangered ecosystems of British Columbia. They offer long-term research and educational opportunities as well as casual, non-consumptive public uses, such as nature photography and bird watching.

The ecological reserves program, in which representative ecosystems are established, managed and conserved, is managed by BC Parks district staff. Field offices are now the first contact point for all volunteer ecological reserve wardens.

Ecological reserve lands

Eight new reserves were established in 1990.

Galiano Island Ecological Reserve, 30 hectares on Galiano Island, was established to protect a rare undisturbed peat bog ecosystem, and the small carnivorous sundew plant in the Gulf Islands.

Mahoney Lake Ecological Reserve, 29 hectares, by Okanagan Falls is of international interest and recognition. The reserve protects a Southern Interior saline lake with a well-defined red bacterial plate, or crust.

The combination of a marine and dry climate gives the 23-hectare *Trial Islands Ecological Reserve*, near the Vancouver Island municipality of Oak Bay, more rare and endangered plant species than any other location in B.C.

The 132-hectare *Klaskish River Ecological Reserve* contains one of the very few undisturbed estuaries on Vancouver Island. This northwest coast reserve, north of Brooks Peninsula, contains fish-rearing territory, rare oysters, and Roosevelt elk.

Big Creek Ecological Reserve near Williams Lake preserves 257 hectares of pristine grassland and trees.

The 76-hectare *Stoyoma Creek Ecological Reserve* near Boston Bar is a unique area where three biogeoclimatic zones meet.

The *Gamble Creek Ecological Reserve* near Prince Rupert, a 1,212-hectare area, preserves a sample of the wet north coast ecosystem.

A rare inland breeding colony of herring gulls is protected at the one-hectare

- ***Preserve representative, rare or endangered ecosystems***
- ***Offer scientific and educational opportunities***

Ellis Island Ecological Reserve on Fraser Lake near Vanderhoof.

Griffin Island, part of the Discovery Island group near Victoria, has been added to expand the existing *Oak Bay Island Ecological Reserve* and to protect rare plant communities and seabird habitat.

With the addition of these reserves, 158,900 hectares are now protected in 131 ecological reserves throughout the province. British Columbia has the largest system of ecological reserves in Canada.

Volunteer wardens

Volunteer wardens are important to the management of ecological reserves. In 1990, 13 new wardens were added to the roster, bringing the total to 85 volunteers. Some filled new positions, other replaced former wardens.

Volunteer wardens monitor and report on activities in reserves. They are also an important liaison with local communities.

Research reports

The *Ecological Reserves Act* requires permits to be issued for any research or educational activity within an ecological reserve. In 1990/91, 35 permits were issued. Many were for the completion of inventories within ecological reserves.

Twenty-two permits were issued for new research and 13 permits were issued for ongoing research. In the *Drizzle Lake Ecological Reserve* on the Queen Charlotte Islands, research continued on a rare type of stickleback fish. Another permit was issued to conduct a follow-up study on seabirds in *Solander Island Ecological Reserve* on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

By the end of this fiscal year, scientists and researchers had published 1,050 reports and publications regarding ecological reserves.

Outdoor Recreation

BC Parks represented the provincial interest in the planning, management and allocation of the province's outdoor recreation resources and administered the *Park (Regional) Act*. It also worked with other ministries on recreation corridors.

Rivers and trails

The government confirmed its commitment to planning for recreation along river and trail corridors in 1990/91. The Recreation Corridors Program, created in 1985, was renamed the Rivers and Trails Program. Senior staff in the Ministry of Parks and other ministries began to restructure the program to ensure its effectiveness.

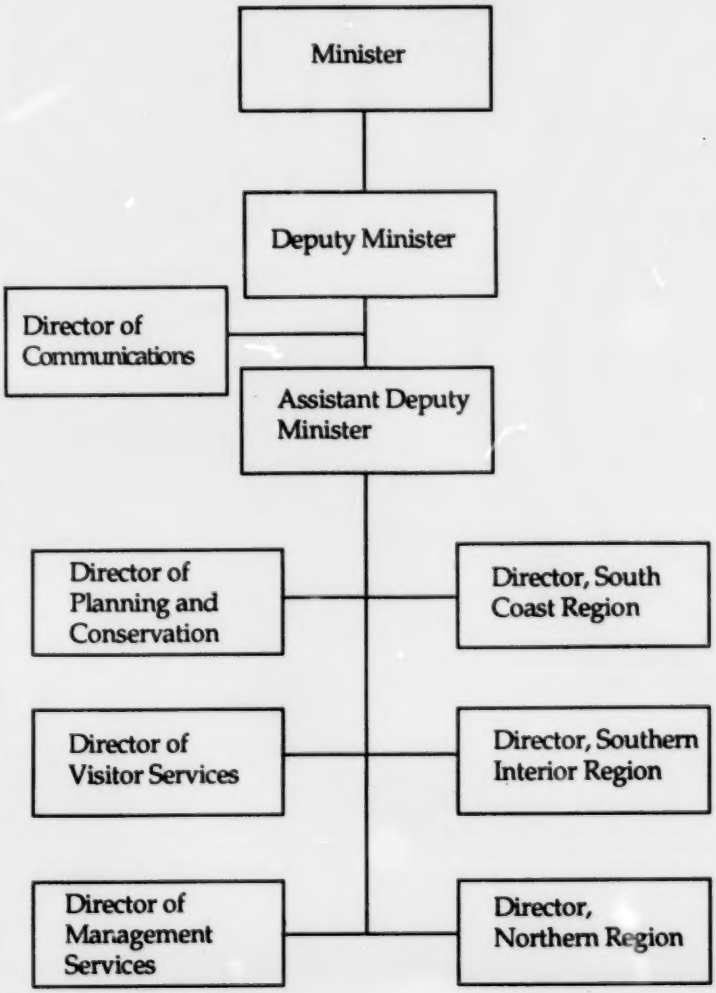
Recreational resource allocation activities

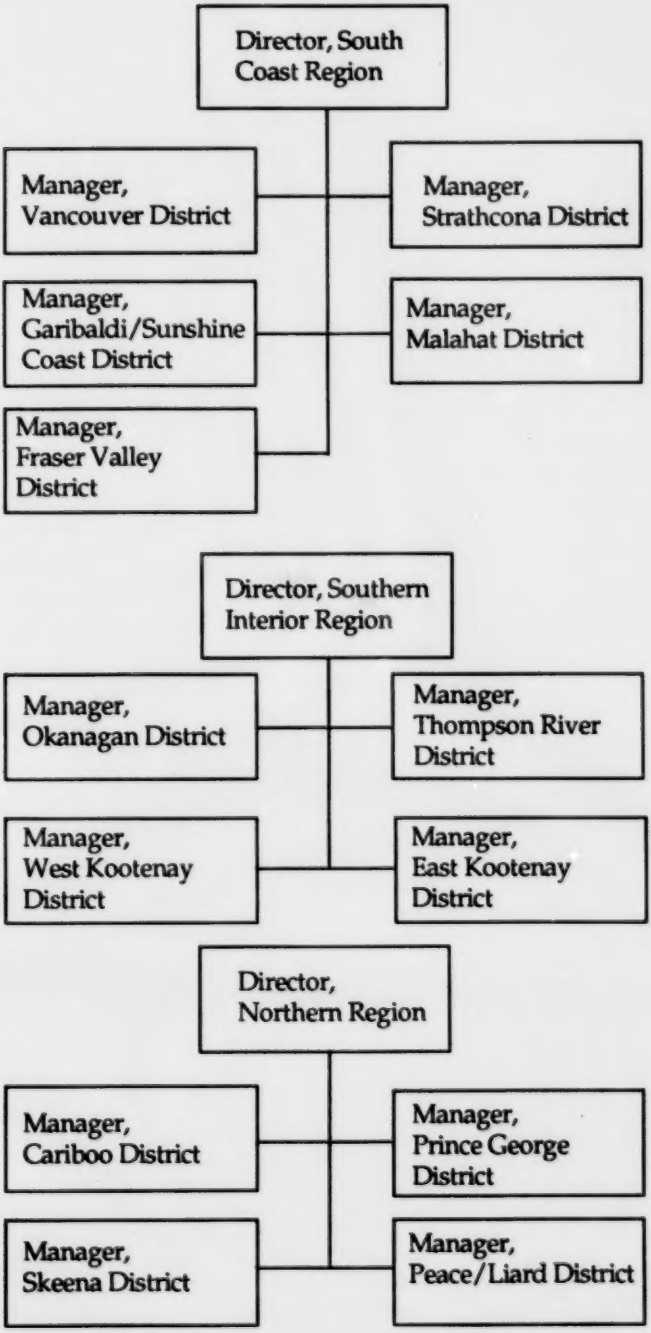
BC Parks continues to work with other agencies to ensure that recreation interests are considered in the planning of large projects. Staff at regional and headquarters offices reviewed 23 proposals submitted under:

- the Mine Development Review Process;
- the Energy Project Review Process;
- the Major Projects Review Process;
- the Forest Development Review Process.

- ❑ *To protect public interest in outdoor recreation*
- ❑ *To review development proposals*
- ❑ *Government renews commitment in 1990/91*

- *Three programs*
- *Three regions*





- *Three Regions*
- *13 Districts*